

Segment 4 - Mendon to Wellsville

General Description

This segment of the BST links two towns, Mendon and Wellsville, located on the eastern Wellsville Mountains (see maps 7, 8, and 9 in Appendix G). The trail would extend from northwest of Mendon to Highway 89 south of Wellsville in a north/south orientation. The trail route would follow existing canal

roads or foothill contours between the cultivated agricultural lands and the Wasatch Cache National Forest. The land ownership where the trail routes occurs is completely private. The trail segment between these two towns, where there are no facilities to accommodate recreational use now, will encourage pedestrian traffic within and through these two communities.

Environmental Description

Slope

The slope aspect for this segment of trail is to the east. The terrain is relatively flat to rolling hills and has an average elevation of 4,800 feet.

Hydrology

The trail crosses a number of perennial and intermittent streams as well as irrigation canals. The Wellsville Mendon Lower Canal and the Wellsville Mendon Upper Canal present two possible corridors for the trail route. Pole Canyon, Deep Canyon, Gibson Canyon, Coldwater Canyon, Shumway Canyon, Brushy Canyon, Pine Canyon, and Wide Canyon all produce seasonal streams that would impact the trail along this segment. Bird Canyon stream is the only perennial stream that would come in contact with the trail, and the possibility of having to bridge this stream exists.

Wildlife

The trail does not impact any critical wildlife range along the foothills of the Wellsville Mountains.

Geology

The trail segment parallels many fault lines along the foothills of the Wellsville Mountains. The largest fault in Cache Valley, the Western Cache Fault, is along this segment of the trail. There are a number of land slide areas along the trail, the largest of which is at the mouth of Brushy Canyon.

Alternative A- Wellsville Mendon Lower Canal (9.4 Miles)

The trail will follow existing canal roads and pedestrian paths that parallel the Wellsville Mendon Lower Canal. The trail begins 1 mile northwest of Mendon and continues south passing the town of Wellsville to the west and ending at Highway 89.

Ownership

Land along this segment is private with the canal company having an easement through the land for the canal.

Trail Development Opportunities

- ❖ The trail route follows existing corridors allowing the construction cost to be minimal.
- ❖ The trail is relatively close to the two towns and encourages pedestrian use.
- ❖ The linkage of Wellsville and Mendon by the trail provides economic and social benefits.
- ❖ Two communities will be able to share in the trail responsibilities.

Trail Development Constraints

- ❖ The trail passes through private land and land use issues may arise.
- ❖ The trail is relatively close to the two towns causing privacy concerns.

Trailheads

Trailhead possibilities along this segment include:

- ❖ Pioneer Park on the west bench of Mendon,
- ❖ the northwest trailhead located on the Wellsville Mendon Lower Canal,
- ❖ bottom of Pine Canyon as the trail crosses the gravel road, and
- ❖ the trailhead at Highway 89 near Wellsville that will need to be constructed.

Alternative B- Eastern Foothills of the Wellsville Mountains (10.2 Miles)

The trail begins near the mouth of Pole Canyon at an elevation of 5,100 feet. The trail then follows the toe of the slope south, contouring between the agricultural land to the east and the Wasatch Cache National Forest to the west. This segment between the two communities is considerably further west from the population centers than Alternative A. The trail segment ends as it meets Highway 89 near 1600 South (Mount Sterling Road).

Ownership

The land along this alternative route borders both public and private properties. The private land is mostly in agricultural use. The trail parallels USFS land and wilderness areas.

Trail Development Opportunities

- ❖ The trail route would provide the most rural setting between Mendon and Wellsville.
- ❖ The trail topography is relatively uniform, which aids in construction of the trail.

Trail Development Constraints

- ❖ The trail route does not follow any existing corridors.
- ❖ The trail would border and pass through private land, which might become a land use issue.

Trailheads

The trailhead for the north and south side of this trail segment includes:

- ❖ the mouth of Pole Canyon, and
- ❖ a constructed location near Mount Sterling and Highway 89.

Other Trail Alignment Opportunities

There are no other easily defined alternatives.

Potential Trail Linkages

There are several potential trail links that can be made along this segment. These include:

- ❖ the town of Mendon to the town of Wellsville,
- ❖ Deep Canyon and Stewart's Pass, and
- ❖ Coldwater Pond.

